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MARINA

VOLUNTEER ARMY SPRUCES UP PARK

Youngster's idea helps city with maintenance



PHOTOS BY DAVID ROYAL — HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Noah Stackpole, right, and Normandy Flicek, both 11, paint a retaining wall with others as Friends of Marina Parks work at Glorya Jean Tate Park In Marina on Saturday.

By Tom Leyde
 newsroom@montereyherald.com

MARINA » They weeded, they painted, they scraped, they planted. When they were done Glorya Jean Tate Park looked cleaner and fresher.

About 30 volunteers showed up for three hours Saturday to help members of Friends of Marina Parks spruce up the 4.2-acre city facility. Among them were Marina's mayor, its police chief, two planning commissioners and the public works director.

The event was one of several Friends of Marina Parks has sponsored at Marina's parks since the group was formed in August.

Lola Tackett, 8, of Marina came up with the idea for Friends of Marina Parks, her mother Amy Tackett said.

"We were at Windy Hill Park and she (Lola) said, 'Our parks need our help.' And I said, 'Yeah, let's get this going ...,' I wanted to get involved and I thought

this is something we can do together," Amy Tackett said.

Lola took her idea to the Marina Recreation and Parks Commission, the Planning Commission and the City Council. She explained the plan in both English and Spanish, her mom said. The agencies then solicited support to get the project started.

Support came from the city, other volunteer groups and people who just wanted to show up and help.

The group created a website (friendsofmarinaparks.org), a Facebook page and an email address (friendsofmarinaparks@gmail.com). Members began putting out the word about cleanup projects.

"It just kind of came together," Amy Tackett said.

Saturday, volunteers at Glorya Jean Park pulled weeds, painted a large cinderblock retaining wall, painted a steel bike rack and cages surrounding utility pipes and stained new rail-



Mike Dinkel clears weeds and rocks from the softball field as the group Friends of Marina Parks works at Glorya Jean Tate Park In Marina on Saturday.

ings installed on the stairs to the park's Scout Building. Iris plants were planted outside the park's chain link fence.

Drinks, snacks and doughnuts were provided for the workers.

Maintaining Marina's parks has been a big issue, Amy Tackett said. The city lacks funds and personnel to keep them in shape.

So Friends of Marina Parks has stepped up to the maintenance plate.

Events are held the third Saturday of each month. And Friends of Marina Parks meets monthly with the public works department to assess what work needs to be done.

People interested in helping can sign up online or

PARK » PAGE 3

EDUCATION

CSUMB copes with statewide directive

Changing graduation requirements while retaining original vision

By Claudia Meléndez Salinas
 newsroom@montereyherald.com

SEASIDE » Sharp divisions and tension are playing out at CSU Monterey Bay as professors consider the implementation of a statewide directive aimed at increasing graduation rates and making sure students obtain their degrees on time.

While some faculty members see the process as a chance to make a much needed overhaul, others fear the changes being considered threaten the university's mission and character, as they would dramatically alter — or possibly eliminate — at least one of two longstanding requirements: service learning and a second language.

"The vision of the university gets expressed in the curriculum, and we are at a very interesting crossroads on whether our curriculum is going to reflect the founding vision or not," said Pamela Motoike, professor of the Service Learning Institute. "We have growing pains and this crossroads is really important. There's important decisions we have to make about retaining the commitment to the vision and meet the request for students who need to graduate in a timely way."

Service learning has a huge impact on the community, as every year thousands of students fan across Monterey County to provide tens of thousands of community service hours. The impact of

CSUMB » PAGE 4

MASS SHOOTING

Florida, angry and grieving, takes gun protest to streets

By Jason Dearen, Allen Breed and Tamara Lush
 The Associated Press

PARKLAND, FLA. » Thousands of angry students, parents and residents demanded stricter gun control laws Saturday as new details were revealed about the suspect accused of shooting and killed 17 people in a Florida high school.

The rally, held in downtown Fort Lauderdale, was attended by scores of students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where the carnage happened.

Teens spoke passionately during Saturday's rally in front of the federal courthouse, pleading with lawmakers to change the nation's gun laws.

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Winter Olympics

Figure skaters Chen, Zhou and Rippon land in top 10. PAGE B1

ELECTION

Joe Biden tiptoes toward a 2020 run

Former VP Joe Biden is tiptoeing toward a potential run in 2020, even broaching the subject at a gathering. PAGE A12

PROBE

Russian meddling 'incontrovertible'

Trump's national security adviser says there's "incontrovertible" evidence of a plot to disrupt 2016 election. PAGE A13

WASHINGTON

Mitt Romney could take on outsized role

Many Republicans looking to Mitt Romney to be an elder statesman in the Senate, willing to take on Trump. PAGE A12

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